

CITIES FOR ALL
 Democracy at Work

11th METROPOLIS World Congress
 HYDERABAD, October 2014
Concept Paper
Cities for All



We are witnessing an unprecedented shift in human history - the shift towards the Cities. Today, more than half of human population lives in cities and the United Nations¹ predicts that over six billion inhabitants would live in urban areas by the year 2050. The majority of this urban population would live in less developed regions of the world. Thus, Cities become epicentre of human development, growth and sustainability². Cities provide opportunities for social equity, economic growth and innovation and yet, we are least prepared, both at local and global level, to face these major urban challenges ahead of us and our future generations and in the context of the climate change. One of the biggest challenges for city leadership and city stakeholders is management of the unparalleled urban growth, urban population and balancing social equity in the cities. This compels all city stakeholders from leadership to users, to start adopting Inclusive, Innovative and Integrated solutions for their metropolitan regions and cities - Cities for All.

METROPOLIS focuses its international engagement with cities and metropolitan regions by examining the cultural, economic, social and political influence on the growth and development

1 <http://esa.un.org/unup/pdf/WUP2011>

2 <http://www.unesco.org/new/en/culture/themes/creativity/creative-cities-network/why-cities>

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of cities around the world. Since its inception in 1984, METROPOLIS worked closely with member cities and international partners to further enforce the idea of solidarity among cities³ as fundamental to address the global issues of cities in the 21st century. Today, cities around the world grapple with severe challenges of **governance, social equity, resilience, finance and sustainability**. Although cities face enormous challenges at local level, and more than never they need cooperation, it's now evident that cities benefit and capitalise through a network such as the METROPOLIS platform which provides cities with a network of knowledge, partnerships, promotion and collaboration among themselves. The future sustainable development of the world depends widely of the capacity of local governments and specially those of big cities and metropolitan regions to develop a new governance capable to face the forthcoming challenges of urbanization and climate change.

As the world enters the century of cities, the massive urbanisation is taking place in the developing nations. It is projected that the urban population in developing nations will continue to grow, reaching 80% by 2030 and over 90% of the urban population growth would occur in the developing regions alone.⁴ The spread of urban inequality, including rich & poor, is fast reaching the developed countries and even in traditional egalitarian nations,⁵ which brings the dialogue of social equity in cities at the forefront of the developed world. In European cities, the modern definition of poverty, like infrastructure-poor, immigrant poverty, vulnerable elderly, is framed in the notions of relative deprivation and social exclusion.⁶ The unprecedented urban population remains the highest challenge for new and developing cities. The city of Dhaka, Bangladesh added about 8 million inhabitants in just over 12 years where as the city of New York, US, took over 150 years to add the same number of inhabitants.⁷ This confirms that :

- 1) sustainable urbanisation can't be addressed through the historical urban planning tools and methods,
- 2) Cities and metropolitan regions must reduce their greenhouse gas emissions, built green buildings, expand mass transportation system, but at the same time they need to provide basic services to all the inhabitants, develop networks for

³ METROPOLIS Secretary General, Mr Alain Le Saux speech during METROPOLIS strategic meeting, 2012

⁴ UN Habitat, Join the world urban campaign – better city better life.

⁵ UN Habitat, WUF7, Medellin. Urban Equity in Development – Cities for Life - <http://wuf7.unhabitat.org/wuf7theme>

⁶ López M E (2010), Insights from EU Research, European Commission, Addressing New Forms of Poverty and Exclusion in Europe. World and European Sustainable Cities.

⁷ Population Distribution, Urbanization, Internal Migration and Development Population Division United Nations, Eduardo López Moreno, UN-HABITAT

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- water supply, collect waste, provide access to land and energy, develop the attractiveness of the territory. They have to do more with less financial resources,
- 3) the future cities would be defined by what happens in the developing world by virtue of their ingenuity, creativity and global partnerships. And one of the biggest gifts to the human kind, the gift of Democracy – the value that brings the global cities together, would be one of the strongest reasons for global cities to work towards sustainable future.

Hyderabad – City for All



“The Equity in Development of India Cities would largely rely on the resources allocation and ingenuity of Urban Poor. This would lead to the most sustainable urban development models for the global cities to follow.” Somesh Kumar, Director METROPOLIS World Congress, Hyderabad 2014

The City of Hyderabad, host city of the 11th World Congress of METROPOLIS, presents the virtues of a democratic city – A City for All. It’s rich culture, tradition, social equity, economic prosperity and demographic dividend makes it a reference among the future cities. The vast

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experience, learning and challenges of the host city and urban India provides an excellent opportunity for the 11th World Congress of METROPOLIS to gather, engage, debate and share the global dialogue on urbanisation with stakeholders of the cities around the world. The host city, Hyderabad, extends the 'living city experiences' to delegates and participants of the World Congress and invites all city stakeholders, mayors, decision makers, practitioners, from leadership to academics to women & youth groups to join the debate and enrich the dialogue of 'Cities for All' for the benefit of all inhabitants of the cities around the world. **Cities for All** - represents the functioning of the Democracy for all its stakeholders and planning for the future generations.⁸

METROPOLIS : a network of knowledge exchange at the global level to facilitate actions to the local level

For the 11th World Congress of METROPOLIS, the host city of Hyderabad, government of Andhra Pradesh and the METROPOLIS Secretariat consulted with various stakeholders of the cities, institutions, academics and international partners on the challenges and opportunities of the cities around the World. During this discourse it was evident that the cities, especially in the developing and emerging world, wanted to shift their focus from **abstract-based concepts to action-based projects and evidence-based learnings**. The stakeholders strongly urged to use this international congress for a dialogue and **debate on the broader vision of sustainable urban development and focus on social inclusion, governance, partnerships and challenges of cities from developing regions**. The government and non-government development agencies and policy makers put emphasis on redefining the urban finances with attention to local financial resources⁹ for long term sustainability of the urban projects. The importance of Youth and Women participation in city's decision making process was a common message from all stakeholders. Above all, there was a consensus that 'Cities for All' must adopt and demonstrate the fundamental values of Democracy in our cities – **Equity, Participation, Freedom and Engagements**.

⁸ METROPOLIS discussions with Mr S K Joshi, IAS, Secretary, Govt of AP, 11th February 2014 Hyderabad.

⁹ FMDV (Global Fund for Cities Development), Cities and Environment: Creating Sustainable Wealth - Environmental Sustainability, Mainspring of Economic Resilience and Social Benefit

* The learning from Indian Cities would redefining the value of Democracy around the World

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This engagement and participatory process resulted in outlining the following sub themes for the 11th World Congress of METROPOLIS:

- Urban Equity** – (must focus on) Urban Poor and Social Inclusion
- Governance** – (is about) Citizen Participation and Engagements
- Urban Financing** – (must redefine through) Local Finance
- Urban India** – (the largest) Democracy at Work*

As METROPOLIS is about to turn 30 , the 11th METROPOLIS World Congress will be an opportunity to hear from key elected representatives who, over the past 30 years, have developed their metropolises. It will also be the occasion to listen to and interact with Urban India’s prominent experts, decision makers, mayors, and open new avenues between cities and metropolitan regions. In addition to the renewal of the statutory bodies, METROPOLIS will also take advantage of this urban agora to showcase the many ongoing projects the network is running: the Initiatives programs, the METROPOLIS International Training Institute (MITI), the Women network, the launch of its new Youth Network and to establish the main priorities of its new Action Plan for the 2015/2017 period.

The celebration of the 5th edition of the METROPOLIS Awards, the promising debates and reflections as well as the knowhow of the congress will also represent METROPOLIS’s contributions to the preparation of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat III) and the post-2015 Millennium Development Goals.